

South Carolina Department of Agriculture

Hugh Weathers, Commissioner



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – August 14, 2008

USC Hosts Healthy Carolina Farmers Market

COLUMBIA, SC - The University of South Carolina will serve as the host for a new on-campus farmers market. The market's grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony is scheduled to be held at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, September 16, 2008, on the campus in front of the Russell House on Greene Street in Columbia, SC.

Hugh Weathers, Commissioner of Agriculture, and Patricia Moore-Pastides, MPH, wife of USC's new President Harris Pastides, will open the new market. Mrs. Pastides' background is in public health with an emphasis in nutrition, so she is excited at the prospect of having a farmers market on campus. Commissioner Weathers, a graduate of USC and a dairy farmer with a passion for helping young people, enthusiastically endorses the farmers market as an opportunity to share fresh, wholesome locally-grown produce and products with USC students and staff.

Market hours will be from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. and will feature a variety of vendors offering fresh produce and other South Carolina products. The local farmers market will be within walking distance of the State House. A city garage, located on Bull Street only one block from the market location will be available for parking.

The Healthy Carolina Farmers Market is a collaborative effort between the South Carolina Department of Agriculture, Healthy Carolina, and the USC Student Government. The farmers market will provide a "taste" of South Carolina fresh produce and products for students, faculty, and others who live and work in the downtown area. The new farmers market will be a convenient, fresh market shopping experience for consumers and a welcomed marketing venue for local farmers.

For more information about the Healthy Carolina Farmers Market, contact Roy Copelan, Market Manager, 803-917-1119.

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